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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/743,796	Applicant(s) WALLACE ET AL.	
	Examiner Techane J. Gergiso <i>T-G</i>	Art Unit 2137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 and 48-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 and 48-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is a non-Final Office Action in response to the communication filed one September 25, 2007.
2. Claims 45-47 are canceled and new claims 49-51 are added.
3. Claims 1-44 and 48-51 have been examined and are pending.

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-44 and 48-52 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-12 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hellman (US Pat. No.: 5, 872, 917) in view of Salowey et al. (hereinafter referred to as Salowey, US Pat. No.: 7, 171,555).

As per claim 1:

Hellman discloses a method for authenticating a computer, the method comprising the following steps:

transmitting credential and a computer challenge from the second computer to the first computer when the second computer is to be authenticated (figure 1: 16, 18; column 6: lines 23-45);  
transmitting a response to said computer challenge from said first computer to said second computer (column 3: lines 30-45; column 6: lines 23-45); and  
verifying said response with said second computer in order to authenticate (column 3: lines 1-45; column 5: lines 33-45).

Hellman does not explicitly disclose issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers. Salowey, in analogous art, however, discloses issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers (Column 3: lines 35-40; column 4: lines 15-21; column 6: lines 15-21; column 7: lines 1-10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman to include authentication of the computers. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a method for communicating a security credential within a network device authentication conversation as suggested by Salowey in (column 3: lines 15-27).

As per claim 2:

Hellman discloses a method, wherein the challenge is a random number generated by the second computer and the first computer computes the response to the challenge by performing a predetermined function on the random number (column 5: lines 56-67).

AS per claim 3:

Salowey discloses a method, wherein the second computer determines whether the first computer response is valid by performing the predetermined function on the random number and comparing the result to the response (column 5: lines 50-55).

As per claim 4:

Hellman discloses a method, wherein the predetermined function is a hash function (column 7: lines 51-15).

As per claim 5:

Hellman discloses a method, wherein the second computer establishes a connection with the first computer when the response is valid (column 2: lines 50 -58).

As per claim 6:

Hellman discloses a method, wherein the first computer issues a credential with a time limit and the first computer determines whether the credential transmitted from the second computer is valid by determining the expiration time of the credential (column 3: lines 25-35).

As per claim 7:

Hellman discloses a system for authenticating a computer, the system comprising:  
a first computer (figure 1: 12); and  
a second computer in communication with the first computer (figure 1: 14-22);  
wherein the first computer and the second computer are configured to execute the  
following instructions (figure 1: 14-22):  
transmit the credential and a challenge from the second computer to the first computer  
when the second computer is to be authenticated (figure 1: 16, 18; column 6: lines  
23-45);  
transmit a response to the challenge from the first computer to the second computer  
(column 3: lines 30-45; column 6: lines 23-45); and  
verify the response with the second computer in order to authenticate (column 3: lines 1-  
45; column 5: lines 33-45).

Hellman does not explicitly disclose issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers. Salowey, in analogous art, however, discloses issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers (Column 3: lines 35-40; column 4: lines 15-21; column 6: lines 15-21; column 7: lines 1-10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman to include authentication of the computers. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a method for

communicating a security credential within a network device authentication conversation as suggested by Salowey in (column 3: lines 15-27).

As per claim 8

Hellman discloses a method, wherein the second computer is configured to generate a challenge that is a random number and the first computer is configured to generate a response to the challenge by performing a predetermined function on the random number (column 7: lines 16-40).

As per claim 9:

Hellman discloses a method, wherein the second computer is configured to determine whether the response is valid by performing the predetermined function on the random number and comparing the result to the response (column 3: lines 60-67; column 5: lines 1-10).

As per claim 10:

Hellman discloses a method, wherein the predetermined function is a hash function (column 2: lines 50 -58).

As per claim 11:

Hellman discloses a method, wherein the second computer establishes a connection with the first computer when the response is valid (column 3: lines 25-35).

As per claim 12:

Hellman discloses a method, wherein the first computer issues a credential with a time limit and the first computer determines whether the credential transmitted from the second computer is valid by determining the expiration time of the credential (column 3: lines 25-35).

As per claim 49:

Hellman discloses a method for authenticating a computer, the method comprising the following steps:

in response to a connection between the first computer and the second computer being terminated, transmitting said credential and a computer challenge from the second computer to the first computer when the second computer is to be authenticated (column 6: lines 57-67; figure 1: 16, 18; column 6: lines 23-45);  
transmitting a response to said computer challenge from said first computer to said second computer (figure 1: 16, 18; column 6: lines 23-45); and  
verifying at said second computer whether said response is valid, wherein said second computer re-establishes a connection with the first computer when the response is valid (figure 1: 16, 18; column 6: lines 23-45; column 5: lines 50-60).

Hellman does not explicitly disclose issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers. Salowey, in analogous art, however, discloses issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers (Column 3: lines 35-40; column 4: lines 15-21; column 6: lines 15-21; column 7:



lines 1-10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman to include authentication of the computers. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a method for communicating a security credential within a network device authentication conversation as suggested by Salowey in (column 3: lines 15-27).

7. Claims 13-18, 24-29, 35-40, 48, 50-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hellman (US Pat. No.: 5, 872, 917) in view of Salowey et al. (hereinafter referred to as Salowey, US Pat. No.: 7, 171,555), and further in view of Kumar et al. (hereinafter referred to as Kumar, US Pat. No.: 6,535,980).

As per claim 13:

Hellman discloses a method for authenticating a computer, the method comprising the steps:

generating with the second computer a first challenge (column 6: lines 57-67);

transmitting the credential and the first challenge from the second computer to the first computer (figure 1: 16, 18; column 6: lines 23-45);

determining with the first computer whether the credential is valid (column 5: lines 50-60);

computing a first response to the first challenge and generating a second challenge with the first computer (column 6: lines 57-67);

transmitting the first response and the second challenge from the first computer to the second computer (column 3: lines 30-45; column 6: lines 23-45);  
determining with the second computer whether the second response is valid (column 5: lines 50-60);  
computing a second response to the second challenge with the second computer (column 6: lines 57-67);  
transmitting the second response from the second computer to the first computer (column 3: lines 30-45; column 6: lines 23-45); and  
determining with the first computer whether the second response is valid to verify (column 3: lines 1-45; column 5: lines 33-45).

Hellman does not explicitly disclose issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers. Salowey, in analogous art, however, discloses issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers (Column 3: lines 35-40; column 4: lines 15-21; column 6: lines 15-21; column 7: lines 1-10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman to include authentication of the computers. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a method for communicating a security credential within a network device authentication conversation as suggested by Salowey in (column 3: lines 15-27).

Hellman and Salowey do not explicitly disclose the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response. Kumar, in analogous art, however, discloses the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response (figure 1: 1, 2, Column 2: lines column 2: lines 30-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman and Salowey to include the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a secure method of data transfer using a challenge response in which a correct response to a challenge is used to transmit the value "1", while a deliberately false response is made to transmit the value "0" as suggested by Kumar in (column 2: lines 22-27).

As per claim 24:

Hellman discloses a method computer-readable medium containing a program with instructions that execute the following procedure:

generate a first challenge with the second computer (column 6: lines 57-67);

transmit the credential and the first challenge from the second computer to the first computer (figure 1: 16, 18; column 6: lines 23-45);

determine with the first computer whether the credential is valid (column 5: lines 50-60);

compute a first response to the first challenge and generate a second challenge with the first computer (column 6: lines 57-67);

transmit the first response and the second challenge from the first computer to the second computer (column 3: lines 30-45; column 6: lines 23-45);  
determine with the second computer whether the first response is valid to verify the first computer (column 5: lines 50-60);  
compute a second response to the second challenge with the second computer; transmit the second response from the second computer to the first computer (column 6: lines 57-67); and  
determine with the first computer whether the second response is valid to verify and authenticate the computers (column 3: lines 1-45; column 5: lines 33-45).

Hellman does not explicitly disclose issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers. Salowey, in analogous art, however, discloses issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers (Column 3: lines 35-40; column 4: lines 15-21; column 6: lines 15-21; column 7: lines 1-10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman to include authentication of the computers. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a method for communicating a security credential within a network device authentication conversation as suggested by Salowey in (column 3: lines 15-27).

Hellman and Salowey do not explicitly disclose the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response. Kumar, in analogous art, however, discloses the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response (figure 1: 1, 2, Column 2: lines column 2: lines 30-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman and Salowey to include the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a secure method of data transfer using a challenge response in which a correct response to a challenge is used to transmit the value "1", while a deliberately false response is made to transmit the value "0" as suggested by Kumar in (column 2: lines 22-27).

As per claim 35:

Hellman discloses a method and system for authenticating a computer, the system comprising:

a first computer (figure 1: 12); and

a second computer in communication with the first computer (figure 1: 14-22);

wherein the first computer and the second computer are configured to execute the

following instructions (figure 1: 14-22):

generate a first challenge with the second computer (column 6: lines 57-67);

transmit the credential and the first challenge from the second computer to the first

computer (figure 1: 16, 18; column 6: lines 23-45);

determine with the first computer whether the credential is valid (column 5: lines 50-60);  
compute a first response to the first challenge and generate a second challenge with the  
first computer (column 6: lines 57-67);  
transmit the first response and the second challenge from the first computer to the second  
computer (column 3: lines 30-45; column 6: lines 23-45);  
determine with the second computer whether the first response is valid (column 5: lines  
50-60);  
compute a second response to the first challenge with the second computer (column 6:  
lines 57-67);  
transmit the second response from the second computer to the first computer (column 3:  
lines 30-45; column 6: lines 23-45); and  
determine with the first computer whether the second response is valid to authenticate  
and verify the computers (column 3: lines 1-45; column 5: lines 33-45).

Hellman does not explicitly disclose issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers. Salowey, in analogous art, however, discloses issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers (Column 3: lines 35-40; column 4: lines 15-21; column 6: lines 15-21; column 7: lines 1-10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman to include authentication of the computers. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a method for

communicating a security credential within a network device authentication conversation as suggested by Salowey in (column 3: lines 15-27).

Hellman and Salowey do not explicitly disclose the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response. Kumar, in analogous art, however, discloses the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response (figure 1: 1, 2, Column 2: lines column 2: lines 30-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman and Salowey to include the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a secure method of data transfer using a challenge response in which a correct response to a challenge is used to transmit the value "1", while a deliberately false response is made to transmit the value "0" as suggested by Kumar in (column 2: lines 22-27).

As per claims 14, 25 and 36:

Hellman discloses a method, system and computer readable medium having instructions, wherein the second computer encrypts the credential before transmitting the credential to the first computer (column 2: lines 35-55).

As per claims 15, 26 and 37:

Hellman discloses a method, system and computer readable medium having instructions, wherein the first computer challenge is a random number generated by the second computer and the first computer computes a first response to the first challenge by performing a predetermined function on the random number (column 5: lines 56-67).

As per claims 16, 27 and 38:

Salowey discloses a method, system and computer readable medium having instructions, wherein the second computer determines whether the first response is valid by performing the predetermined function on the random number and comparing the result to the first response (column 5: lines 50-55).

As per claims 17, 28 and 39:

Hellman discloses a method, system and computer readable medium having instructions, wherein the predetermined function is a hash function (column 7: lines 51-15).

As per claims 18, 29 and 40:

Hellman discloses a method, system and computer readable medium having instructions, wherein the second challenge is a random number generated by the first computer and the second computer computes a second response to the second challenge by performing a predetermined function on the random number (column 5: lines 56-67).

As per claim 48:



Hellman discloses a method of authentication performed between a first user and a second user with a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a first challenge with the second user (column 6: lines 57-67);

transmitting the credential and the first challenge to the first user (figure 1: 16, 18;

column 6: lines 23-45);

determining with the first user whether the credential is valid (column 5: lines 50-60);

generating with the first user a first response to the first challenge and a second challenge

(column 6: lines 57-67);

transmitting the first response and the second challenge to the second user (figure 1: 16,

18; column 6: lines 23-45);

determining with the second user whether the first response is valid (column 5: lines 50-

60);

generating with the second user a second response to the second challenge (column 6:

lines 57-67);

transmitting the second response to the first user (figure 1: 16, 18; column 6: lines 23-45);

and

determining with the first user whether the second response is valid in order to

authenticate and verify the first and second users (column 5: lines 50-60);

Hellman does not explicitly disclose issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of the computers. Salowey, in analogous art, however, discloses issuing a credential from a first computer to a second computer and authentication of

the computers (Column 3: lines 35-40; column 4: lines 15-21; column 6: lines 15-21; column 7: lines 1-10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman to include authentication of the computers. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a method for communicating a security credential within a network device authentication conversation as suggested by Salowey in (column 3: lines 15-27).

Hellman and Salowey do not explicitly disclose the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response. Kumar, in analogous art, however, discloses the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response (figure 1: 1, 2, Column 2: lines column 2: lines 30-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman and Salowey to include the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a secure method of data transfer using a challenge response in which a correct response to a challenge is used to transmit the value "1", while a deliberately false response is made to transmit the value "0" as suggested by Kumar in (column 2: lines 22-27).

As per claim 50:

Hellman and Salowey do not explicitly disclose the challenge comprises a random number generated by the second computer, wherein the first computer generates the response to the challenge by calculating a predetermined function of the random number, and wherein the second computer verifies whether the response is valid by calculating the predetermined function of the random number and comparing the result of the calculation to the response. Kumar, in analogous art, however, discloses the challenge comprises a random number generated by the second computer, wherein the first computer generates the response to the challenge by calculating a predetermined function of the random number, and wherein the second computer verifies whether the response is valid by calculating the predetermined function of the random number and comparing the result of the calculation to the response (figure 1: 1, 2, Column 2: lines column 2: lines 30-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman and Salowey to include the first challenge, the first response, the second challenge, and the second response. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide a secure method of data transfer using a challenge response in which a correct response to a challenge is used to transmit the value "1", while a deliberately false response is made to transmit the value "0" as suggested by Kumar in (column 2: lines 22-27).

As per claim 51:

Hellman discloses a method, wherein the first computer issues the credential with an expiration time, the method comprising checking at the first computer whether the credential

transmitted from the second computer is valid by determining whether the expiration time of the credential has been exceeded (column 3: lines 25-35).

8. Claims 19-23, 30- 34 and 41-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hellman (US Pat. No.: 5, 872, 917) and Salowey t al. (hereinafter referred to as Salowey, US Pat. No.: 7, 171,555), in view of and Kumar et al. (hereinafter referred to as Kumar, US Pat. No.: 6,535,980) further in view of.

As per claims 19, 30 and 41:

Hellman Salowey and Kumar do not explicitly disclose the first computer determines whether the second response is valid by performing the predetermined function on the random number and comparing the result to the second response. Yokota, in analogous art, however, discloses the first computer determines whether the second response is valid by performing the predetermined function on the random number and comparing the result to the second response (column 5: lines 65-67; column 6: lines 1-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system disclosed by Hellman to include the first computer determines whether the second response is valid by performing the predetermined function on the random number and comparing the result to the second response. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to provide methods for authentication between apparatuses using a challenge and response system with improved security against

spoofing, even when the same piece of challenge data that is used in a past authentication is reused as suggested by Yokota in (column 2: lines 22-27).

As per claims 20, 31 and 42:

Hellman discloses a method, system and computer readable medium having instructions, wherein the predetermined function is a hash function (column 7: lines 51-15).

As per claims 21, 32 and 43:

Yokota discloses a method, system and computer readable medium having instructions, wherein the first computer issues the credential with an expiration time and the first computer determines whether the credential transmitted from the second computer is valid by determining the expiration time of the credential (column 3: lines 25035).

As per claims 22, 33 and 44:

Yokota discloses a method, system and computer readable medium having instructions, wherein comprising the steps of:

encrypting the first challenge with the second computer before transmitting to the first computer (figure 14: 94);

decrypting the first challenge with the first computer before determining whether the first response is computed (figure 14: 103);

encrypting the first response and the second challenge with the first computer before transmitting (figure 14: 94);

decrypting the first response and the second challenge with the second computer before determining whether the first response is valid and the second response is computed (figure 14: 103);  
encrypting the second response with the second computer before transmitting (figure 14: 94); and  
decrypting the second response with the first computer before determining whether the second response is valid (figure 14: 103).

As per claims 23 and 34:

Yokota discloses a method and computer readable medium having instructions, wherein the credential is encrypted before issuing the credential to the second computer and the credential is decrypted by the first computer when returned by the second computer (figure 14: 103; figure 14: 94).

### ***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

See the notice of reference cited in form PTO-892 for additional prior art.

### ***Contact Information***

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Techane J. Gergiso whose telephone number is (571) 272-3784

Application/Control Number:  
10/743,796  
Art Unit: 2137

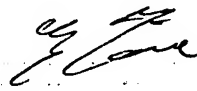
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and fax number is ~~(571) 273-3784~~. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/T.G/

November 28, 2007

  
SUPERVISOR